

2002-043-WO

10/525732

DT15 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 FEB 2005

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## Claims

1. A business application generation system for  
5 automatically generating a business software application, comprising:

- a central processing unit (14);
- a repository (20) containing a set of meta data;
- 10 - a generation tool (22);

- input/output means (16) for treating said meta data and for invoking said generation tool (22);  
said set of meta data containing structured business process application information comprising  
15 information on functions operating on business data, and said generation tool (22) retrieving data from said repository (20) and, on the basis of said retrieved repository data, generating a customized business process application.

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2. The system according to claim 1, wherein said generation tool (22) comprises a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element (30) and said second tool  
25 being a meta data independent generating element (32).

3. The system according to claim 1 or 2, said set of meta data consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.

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4. The system according to claim 3, wherein said meta data entities contain information on the identification of an application to be generated, on object types and on object structures.

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generating element (32), said generating element (32) generating, on the basis of said data input, program code for said business process application.

5 12. The system according to claim 11, wherein said generating element (32) further generates data objects for said business process application.

10 13. The system according to claim 11, wherein said generating element (32) further generates a data base for said business process application.

14. A method for generating a business software application, comprising:

15 providing a set of meta data containing information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process data, and

20 importing said set of meta data comprising information on functions into a generation tool (22) comprising a meta data dependent passer element (30) and a meta data independent generating element (32) for generating a customized business software application.

25 15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means before said meta data is imported into said generation tool (22).

30 16. A method according to claim 14 or 15, further comprising the step of handling, interpreting, and processing said set of meta data imported into said generation tool (22) in said meta data dependent passer element (30).

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17. A method according to claim 16, further comprising the steps of inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element (30) into said generating element (32), and generating program code  
5 for said business process application on the basis of said data input.

18. A computer program product for generating a business software application, the computer program  
10 product comprising instructions to cause a processor of a computer to execute the following steps:

importing a set of meta data comprising information on functions into a generation tool (22), said generation tool (22) comprising a meta data dependent  
15 passer element (30) and a meta data independent generating element (32),

on the basis of said set of meta data, processing meta data in said passer element (30), inputting said processed meta data in said generating element (32) and  
20 generating a customized business software application.

19. A computer program comprising computer program code means to perform a method according to one of claims 14 to 17 if run on a computer.  
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20. A business application generation system for automatically adapting a business software application, comprising:

- a central processing unit (14);
- 30 - a repository (20) containing a set of meta data;
- a generation tool (22);
- input/output means (16) for treating said meta data and for invoking said generation tool (22);

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said set of meta data containing structured business process application information comprising information on functions operating on business data, and said generation tool (22) retrieving data from said repository (20) and, on the basis of said retrieved repository data, generating a customized adapted version of an existing business process application.

21. The system according to claim 20, wherein said generation tool (22) comprises a first tool and a second tool, said first tool being a meta data dependent passer element (30) and said second tool being a meta data independent generating element (32).

22. The system according to claim 20 or 21, said set of meta data consists of data base tables containing meta data entities.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein said meta data entities contain information on the identification of an application to be generated, on object types and on object structures.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein said object types contain information on the business process data to be processed by the application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process.

25. The system according to one of the claims 20 to 24, wherein said business process is a billing process.

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33. A method for generating an adapted business software application, comprising:

5 providing a set of meta data containing information on the business process data to be processed by the adapted application to be generated and on functions operating on said business process data, and

10 importing said set of meta data comprising information on functions into a generation tool (22) comprising a meta data dependent passer element (30) and a meta data independent generating element (32) for generating a customized adapted business software application.

15 34. A method according to claim 33, further comprising the step of customizing said set of meta data via an input/output means (16) before said meta data is imported into said generation tool.

20 35. A method according to claim 33 or 34, further comprising the step of handling, interpreting, and processing said set of meta data imported into said generation tool in said meta data dependent passer element (30).

25 36. A method according to claim 35, further comprising the steps of inputting said set of meta data after processing in said passer element (30) into said generating element (32), and generating program code  
30 for said business process application on the basis of said data input.

37. A computer program product for generating an adapted business software application, the computer